Report Links 2 Ex-CIA Agents To Theft of Military Radar

PHILADELPHIA, June 21 (UPI) — Two former CIA agents being sought on charges of illegal arms sales to Libya have been linked to the theft of radar equipment from a naval test site in China Lake, Calif., The Philadelphia Bulletin reported today.

The report named Frank E. Terpil and Edwin P. Wilson as the subjects of a federal investigation into the theft of radar equipment from the U.S. Naval Testing Center at China Lake, a Southern California test center for sophisticated weaponry and electronics systems.

Both men are being sought on federal fugitive warrants on charges they sold large quantities of weapons and sensitive military equipment to Muammar Qaddafi's government in Libya.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed Justice Department source as saying Terpil and Wilson allegedly "stole a ton of stuff from China Lake" over a period of "several years."

The pair allegedly used CIA contacts to obtain the radar equipment, which, installed in an airplane, can detect and classify approaching aircraft as friendly or enemy craft, according to the newspaper.

Terpil, who jumped bail and is believed to be out of the country, was convicted in absentia last month on gun-running charges in New York.

Terpil and Wilson also have been accused in indictments of hiring former Green Berets to work in Libya training members of international terrorist groups, including Italy's Red Brigade, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Irish Republican Army, the newspaper reported.

Federal investigators are checking the possibility that the two former agents were involved with five other men, including two China Lake employes, who were indicted recently on charges of stealing military night scopes, a low-light television camera and a remote control helicopter from the naval center, the report said.

The Bulletin said federal investigators estimate that Terpil and Wilson allegedly sold the Libyan government hundreds of night scopes, infrared devices used to detect targets at night.